

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 9 and 14 have been amended. Attached is a sheet showing the amendments to claims 3, 9 and 14 by underlining and bracketing. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully requested that amended claims 3, 9 and 14 be approved and entered.

PROVISIONAL ELECTION

Applicants hereby provisionally elect species 9, Fig. 15, for further prosecution on the merits, with traverse.

The claims readable on provisionally elected Fig. 15 are claims 1, 5, 6 and 12.

TRAVERSE

It is respectfully submitted that a more logical and fair grouping of claims and Figures is as set forth below:

Group I: Sub-group 1

Figs. 15-25, Embodiments 9-16, on which claims 1-8 and 12 are readable.

Sub-group 2

Figs. 26-28, Embodiment 17, on which claims 9-11 are readable.

Group II: Figs. 3-14, Embodiments 1-8, on which claims 13-19 are readable.

The claims in Group I, Sub-group 1, Figs. 15-25 (Claims 1-8 and 12) are directed to an inductance component having at least one magnetic gap, means for generating a direct-current biased magnetic field (at least one permanent magnet) and a coil wound around the magnetic core. A review of Figs. 15-25 reveals that these embodiments are closely related and should be examined together. Claims 1-8 are directed to such a structure. Claim 12 is directed to a transformer comprised of the structure of claim 1. Thus, claims 1-8 and 12, directed to Figs. 15-25 are logically includable in a single group of claims.

Group I, Sub-group 2, Figs. 26-28 (Claims 9-11) are directed to an inductance component of claim 1, which further has a protrusion protruding from one of the pair of opposed end portions forming the gap of the magnetic core, toward the other of the pair of opposed end portions. Thus, these embodiments (with a projection) logically form a second sub-group of Group I, and should be examined together.

Group II, Figs. 3-14 (Claims 13-19) are directed to an inductance component similar to that of claim 1, but wherein at least one of the permanent magnets is arranged on at least one of the outside portions of the magnetic core, except in the magnetic gap in the magnetic core. Claims 14-19 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 13. Thus, claims 13-19

logically comprise a third grouping of claims since they are all directed to the same general inventive concept, and should be examined together.

ELECTION AFTER TRAVERSE

Based on the above more logical grouping of claims, Applicants hereby elect Group I, Sub-group 1, Figs. 15-25, for further prosecution on the merits.

Claims 1-8 and 12 are readable on the elected embodiments of Group I, Sub-group 1, Figs. 15-25.

It is respectfully submitted that examination of claims 1-8 and 12 (Figs. 15-25) by the Examiner will not cause any undue burden on the Examiner in connection with conducting a search of the prior art, due to the close relationship of the subject matter of these claims and Figures.

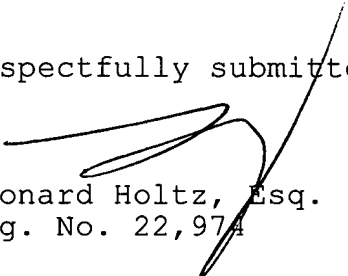
It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner re-state the election/restriction requirement using the three groups set forth above.

Assuming that the Examiner re-states the election/restriction requirement as set forth above, applicants again indicate that Group I, Sub-group 1, Figs. 15-25, on which claims 1-8 and 12 are readable, are elected. The subject matter of claim 1 is generic to Figs. 15-25, and claims 1-8 and 12 constitutes a more logical and reasonable election and area of search. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner accept the election of Group I, Sub-group 1, Figs. 15-25, claims 1-8 and 12, and it is

respectfully requested that prosecution on the merits now proceed on the basis of such an election.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

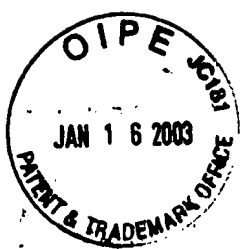
Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. (Amended) An inductance component according to claim 2, wherein each of the permanent magnets is mounted in the vicinity of the magnetic gap [adjacent to] on at least one of the [magnetic] end portions of the magnetic core including the small piece of core and sandwiching the magnetic gap in corporate to one of the end portions opposite to the other end portion of the magnetic core.

9. (Amended) An inductance component according to claim 1, wherein one of the pair of opposed end portions forming the gap of the magnetic core has a protrusion protruding toward the other of the pair of opposed end [potions] portions.

14. (Amended) An inductance component according to claim [1] 13, wherein said at least one of the permanent [magnet] magnets are shaped like a plane or a general plane which is magnetized such that each of entire [surface] surfaces thereof
5 [has] opposite to each other has a different magnetic polarity.

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